

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05368 121948Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7231

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5368

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: PNP VICE PRESIDENT ELECTION POSTPONED

1. IN A SURPRISE DEVELOPMENT AT THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) CONFERENCE SEPT 10, IT WAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE ELECTION OF FOUR PNP PARTY VICE PRESIDENTS. IT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED THAT THE ELECTION WOULD BE A TEST OF THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF PARTY RADICALS AND MODERATES (SEE KINGSTON 5008). ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS THE POSTPONEMENT FOLLOWED THE WITHDRAWAL OF TWO OF THE RADICAL CANDIDATES, ANTHONY SPAULDING AND DESMOND LEAKY, FROM THE RACE. THE WITHDRAWALS WOULD HAVE LEFT FOUR CANDIDATES FOR THE FOUR VICE PRESIDENT POSITIONS. THE PARTY, "OPERATING UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF PRIME MINISTER MANLEY" DECIDED THAT IT WOULD NOT WISH TO HAVE THE AUTOMATIC ELECTION OF THE FOUR REMAINING CANDIDATES. THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY URGED THE CANDIDATES TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISIONS TO WITHDRAW. IT WAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE ELECTIONS UNTIL A DELEGATE'S MEETING IN JANUARY. THE INCUMBENTS WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL THAT TIME.

2. EARLIER IN THE CONFERENCE, MRS. MANLEY WAS REPORTEDLY BOOED BY A "FACTION OF THE DELEGATES WHO LEFT AFTER THE

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BOOING." THE INCIDENT DREW A REBUKE FROM PRIME MINISTER MANLEY WHO ANNOUNCED THAT "BOOING IS NOT THE WAY IN WHICH TO EXPRESS DISAGREEMENT." MANLEY REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT AN APOLOGY BE MADE.

3. COMMENT: WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE MORE COMPLETE REPORTS ON THE HAPPENINGS AT THE CLOSED SESSIONS OF THE 39TH

PARTY CONFERENCE DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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